AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

B5

1. (Currently Amended) A Ghrelin antagonist peptide of the formula: ~~Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-A where A is -OH, NH_2, Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-B, or -Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg-B, where B is -OH or NH_2,~~Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu (SEQ ID NO:2); Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO:3); or Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO:4), wherein the peptide terminates with an -OH or -NH_2 terminal group and said peptide antagonizes the effect of ghrelins when administered to a mammal.

B6

2. (Currently Amended) The peptide of claim 1 wherein the formula is Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu (SEQ ID NO:2).

3. (Currently Amended) The peptide of claim 1 wherein the formula is Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO:4).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A Ghrelin antagonist peptide of ~~claim 1 wherein~~ the formula ~~is~~ Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein the peptide terminates with an -OH or -NH_2 terminal group.

5. (Previously Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide of claim 1 in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

6. (Original) The composition of claim 5 which further comprises a carrier.

B7

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 5 in the form of a sustained release ~~formation~~ formulation or device for parenteral administration.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~peptide~~ composition of claim 5 in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable intranasal formulation.

B7

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~peptide~~ composition of claim 5 in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable inhalation formulation.

Conclude

10-18. Previously canceled.

10 ~~19~~. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 5, wherein the peptide is present in a therapeutically effective amount.

11 ~~20~~. (Previously Added) An aqueous solution comprising the composition of claim 19.

12 ~~21~~. (Previously Added) The composition of claim 7, wherein the sustained release formulation or device comprises at least one of a biodegradable polymer incorporating the peptide or an implantable osmotic pump.

13 ~~22~~. (Previously Added) A growth-hormone reducing composition comprising the peptide of claim 1.

14 ~~23~~. (Previously Added) An inhalable composition comprising an intrapulmonary effective amount of the peptide of claim 1.

B8

15 ~~24~~. (Currently Amended) An intranasal composition comprising an ~~instranasally~~ intranasally effective amount of the peptide of claim 1.

16 ~~25~~. (Currently Amended) A ~~An~~ Ghrelin antagonist peptide composition comprising:

~~Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl) Phe-A where A is -OH, NH_2, Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-B, or -Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg-B, where B is -OH or NH_2,~~Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu (SEQ ID NO:2);

Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO:3); or

Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO:4) ~~where B is -OH or NH_2~~ wherein the peptide terminates with an -OH or -NH_2 terminal group, and at least one carrier or excipient,

B8 Conclude wherein the peptide is present in an amount effective to normalize or reduce an elevated growth hormone level in a patient.

Please add the following new claims:

B9 17 ~~26.~~ (New) The peptide of claim 1 wherein the formula is Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO:3).

18 ~~27.~~ (New) A Ghrelin antagonist of the formula Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO:4), wherein the peptide terminates with an -OH or $-NH_2$ terminal group.

19 ~~28.~~ (New) A Ghrelin antagonist of the formula Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Ala-Lys-Leu-Gln-Pro-Arg (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein the peptide terminates with an -OH or $-NH_2$ terminal group.

20 ~~29.~~ (New) A Ghrelin antagonist of the formula Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe-Leu-Ser-Pro-Glu (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein the peptide terminates with an -OH or $-NH_2$ terminal group.

21 ~~30.~~ (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide of claim 4 in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

22 ~~31.~~ (New) The composition of claim ~~30~~ 21 which further comprises a carrier.

23 ~~32.~~ (New) The composition of claim ~~30~~ 21 in the form of a sustained release formulation or device for parenteral administration.

24 ~~33.~~ (New) The composition of claim ~~30~~ 21 in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable intranasal formulation.

25 ~~34.~~ (New) The composition of claim ~~30~~ 21 in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable inhalation formulation.

26 ~~35.~~ (New) The composition of claim ~~30~~ 21, wherein the peptide is present in a therapeutically effective amount.

27 ~~36.~~ (New) An aqueous solution comprising the composition of claim ~~35~~ 26.

BG Cancelled

28 ~~37.~~ (New) The composition of claim ~~32~~ 23, wherein the sustained release formulation or device comprises at least one of a biodegradable polymer incorporating the peptide or an implantable osmotic pump.

29 ~~38.~~ (New) A growth-hormone reducing composition comprising the peptide of claim 4.

30 ~~39.~~ (New) An inhalable composition comprising an intrapulmonary effective amount of the peptide of claim 4.

31 ~~40.~~ (New) An intranasal composition comprising an ~~instranasally~~ intranasally effective amount of the peptide of claim 4.

32 ~~41.~~ (New) A Ghrelin antagonist peptide composition comprising: Gly-Ser-Ser(Octanoyl)-Phe (SEQ ID NO:1); wherein the peptide terminates with an -OH or -NH_2 terminal group, and at least one carrier or excipient, and wherein the peptide is present in an amount effective to normalize or reduce an elevated growth hormone level in a patient.